




STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan 

DATE: December 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Presentation on Pilot of *Education YES!* Data

*Education YES – A Yardstick for Excellent Schools* has been in use as Michigan's school accreditation system since the 2002-03 school year. In December, 2005, the State Board of Education approved the School Improvement Framework, with the intent that the Framework replace the previous 11 Indicators of School Performance used for Education YES! The State Board of Education was informed in December, 2006 that the 2006-07 school year would be considered a statewide pilot of revised indicators using the School Improvement Framework. 40 key characteristics were selected to serve as Performance Indicators for 2006-07. Schools reported self-ratings and evidence for the self-ratings. The self-ratings on the School Improvement Framework were used for calculation of schools' letter grade under *Education YES!* for 2006-07. The ratings and evidence have been published with the Michigan School Report Card.

The 2006-07 statewide pilot has been considered successful because schools report that the Indicators are now more relevant to the school improvement process and because the scoring of the Indicators is more transparent and predictable. The Department plans to continue a statewide pilot for *Education YES!* for the 2007-08 school year because of the following changes:

Michigan has conducted the first administration of the Michigan Merit Examination. Results of this new assessment will be used to determine accreditation status of schools in school year 2007-08.

Michigan has strengthened the MI-Access alternate assessments and can now include MI-Access data in the determination of accreditation status.

- Michigan's data system is now able to track students between assessment administrations. The State Board has approved Performance Level Change Designations for Grade 3-8 MEAP and MI-Access Functional Independence Assessments which measure and report changes in student performance from one year to the next.

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The Department has entered into a partnership with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and Student Achievement (NCA-CASI) to share reporting functions for accreditation and school improvement.

- Additional reliable data are now available, or will soon become available, in areas such as highly qualified teachers, student attendance and graduation and dropout rates.

These advancements result in a need to make significant revisions to the current *Education YES!* process. The 2007-08 school year will be considered a second pilot year because of the lengthy timeline to make formal changes in the *Education YES!* calculations and reporting format. Section 1280 of the Revised School Code requires that the Department conduct public hearings and that the legislative committees approve changes in accreditation standards. Staff plan to present proposed changes to *Education YES!* at a future meeting of the State Board of Education. The changes will address the measurement of student progress (growth), the use of MI-Access, the transition to the Michigan Merit Examination, as well as the Performance Indicators.